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## **Sen. McManus introduces three new bills**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Michelle McManus today introduced bills into the Michigan Senate targeting forests, charities and continuing education.

Senate Bill 166 creates an Adopt-A Forest program in the Department of Natural Resources that would be similar to the Adopt-A-Highway program. The program would allow individuals or groups to adopt a section of public forest and keep it trash-free.

SB 167 requires an occupational regulatory agency to allow at least half the required credit hours of continuing education or continuing professional competency be earned online or using electronic media. The bill applies to state departments, bureaus and agencies.

SB 168 amends the definition of “gross proceeds” in the General Sales Tax Act to say the taxes paid by the charitable establishment for goods or services sold at a charitable auction, shall be determined by the fair market value of those items sold. Under current law, the charitable organization must pay taxes on the items at the selling price.

“Items sold at charitable auctions often sell for much more than their fair market value because bidders are willing to pay more knowing the proceeds are going to charity,” McManus said. “In fairness to the goal of such auctions, taxes should be paid on the value of the item sold and not the inflated bidding and selling price.”

The bills were referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, Small Business and Regulatory Reform and Finance Committee and Economic Development Committee, respectively.

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